

Comfort for the Lost

Eight Weeks in the Book of Romans

The porch light's on, and there's always room on the porch.

Why Romans, Why Now

Here's the honest truth about Romans: it doesn't comfort the lost by telling them everything's fine. It comforts by telling the truth — first about how lost we all are, then about how far grace is willing to go. That order matters. Paul doesn't hand you a diagnosis and leave you standing on the doorstep; he tells you the whole story precisely because there's a way home at the end of it.

For folks who feel far off — the hurting, the homebound, the ones who haven't darkened a church door in years — that's the best news there is. Not “you're okay.” You're welcome. And there's a way home.

And here's something worth knowing before we pull up our chairs. Of all the letters Paul wrote, this is the one folks call his masterpiece — his fullest, most careful laying-out of everything he'd come to understand about grace. But here's the part that ought to make a porch sit up: he didn't write it to his home church, to people he'd shared years and meals with. He wrote it to a congregation in Rome he had never once met — his deepest word about grace, sent down the road to strangers he hoped to someday sit with. Sound familiar? That's the porch. That's exactly what we're doing.

And here's the sweeter part: that church in Rome most likely had no apostle plant it at all. Many believe it began with ordinary people who'd traveled to Jerusalem, met the Lord at Pentecost, and carried Him home in their luggage (Acts 2:10) — because that's what meeting Him does. He draws you in, and then He sends you to draw the next one. Not a strategy; just what happens

when someone meets, not a set of rules about God, but God Himself. Introducing, reintroducing, reaffirming that relationship — **with** the Lord — is the whole reason we keep the light on.

We opened this ministry with a lost sheep (Luke 15) — a shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine and heads out into the dark until he finds the one. Romans is what happens next. It's the long, glad explanation of what "lost" really meant, what the finding cost, and what kind of family you wake up in once you've been carried home.

How This Study Works

This is a hybrid — two pieces every week:

- **A Front Porch Sit'n teaching** — the Sunday sit-down, where we open the passage together.
- **A downloadable guide** — a one-pager to carry into the week, whether you're working through it on your own porch or with a few folks around the table.

You don't need a seminary degree or a perfect attendance record. You need a Bible, a cup of coffee, and a willingness to be honest. Pull up a chair.

The Arc

Eight weeks, four movements. Each one is a different angle on the same comfort.

MOVEMENT ONE — NOBODY'S FOOLING ANYBODY

The honest diagnosis.

Week 1 • Romans 1:1-17

The good news comes before the bad news. The porch light's already on.

Week 2 • Romans 1:18-32

The far country — the longest "before" in the book, held like a breath.

Week 3 • Romans 2:1–3:20

The pointing finger turns around. The religious are lost too, and the ground is level.

MOVEMENT TWO — WHILE YOU WERE STILL A MESS

Grace you didn't earn.

Week 4 • Romans 3:21–4:25

But now — made right by faith, not by climbing. Abraham shows it was always this way.

Week 5 • Romans 5

“While we were still sinners.” He moved toward you at your worst.

MOVEMENT THREE — YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY THE WAY YOU CAME

New life, no condemnation.

Week 6 • Romans 6–7

Set free from the old self — and the honest struggle that never disqualifies you.

Week 7 • Romans 8

The summit — no condemnation, fully adopted, and nothing can separate you from His love.

MOVEMENT FOUR — HE HASN'T GIVEN UP, AND THERE'S ROOM

Mercy that brings you all the way home.

Week 8 • Romans 9–16

Stubborn mercy for the ones who wandered farthest — and a family with room on the porch.

That's the map. The porch light's on. Let's walk each other home.